



**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of : Frank Eidam  
For : LOCKING RING  
Serial No. : 10/699,902  
Filing Date : November 3, 2003  
Our Docket : BGEE 2 00025

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**Remarks**

**Elections/Restrictions**

Examiner has requested an election be made to restrict the application to either Group I, II, or III for examination purposes. Group I is directed at claims 1-48, Group II is directed at claims 49-60 and Group III is directed at claim 61-63 as described in the Office Action dated May 27, 2005.

Furthermore, the Examiner stated that should applicant elect either Group I or Group II, then an election of species is also required. In particular, the Examiner separated species into Group A and Group B: Group A comprising the locking ring and device having a locking ring wherein the interrupted engagement zone is positioned radially inward on the locking ring as in Figures 8a-8f; and, Group B comprising the locking ring and device having a locking ring wherein the interrupted engagement zone is positioned radially outward on the locking ring as in Figures 9a-9f.

**RESPONSE**

Applicant elects Group I, with traverse, and further elects Species A directed towards claims 1-15 and 32-40. Applicant reserves the right to consideration of species B (claims 16-31 and 41-48) upon the allowance of a generic claim. Applicant requests to be advised of the allowance of a generic claim, and/or linking claim, and given a time period to conform all of the non-elected claims to fully embrace an allowed, generic or linking claim.